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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Sudan:* draft resolution

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 61/204 of 20 December 2006, 62/194 of 19 December 2007 and 63/219 of 19 December 2008 and other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Noting that one hundred ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-seven States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[2]

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is essential for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

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the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Bearing in mind the fact that the deficit in the implementation of the Convention is a direct consequence of the scarcity of financial, technical and technological support provided to developing countries,

Recognizing that the fulfilment of obligations by developing countries depends on the effective implementation by developed countries of their obligations regarding the provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms,

Reaffirming the need to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, as stipulated in the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling, in this regard, the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] in which all States reaffirmed their commitment to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing,

Acknowledging the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the important contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

Recalling its resolution 63/219, in which it decided to convene during its sixty-fifth session, in 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government,

Convinced that the high-level event on biodiversity, to be held on the eve of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, in 2010, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity, will provide a valuable opportunity to generate awareness at the highest level of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[4]

2. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and

[3] See resolution 60/1.

[4] A/64/202, chap. III.

technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and, in this regard, recalls decision IX/12[5] of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and calls upon States parties to participate in the meetings of the Working Group, to be held in November 2009 in Canada and in March 2010 in Colombia, in order to complete the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization, at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, and urges parties to make every effort to complete the work within the established time frame;

4. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation,[6] as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by parties and international organizations;

5. *Encourages* all parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the discussions leading to an updated strategic plan for the Convention to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, bearing in mind that this strategic plan should cover all three objectives of the Convention;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, to promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and to encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting of a strategy for resource mobilization[7] in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, and, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision IX/11 and the annexes thereto,[5] invites parties to submit, to the secretariat of the Convention, views on concrete activities and initiatives, including measurable targets and/or indicators to achieve the strategic goals contained in the strategy, and on indicators to monitor its implementation;

9. *Welcomes also* decision IX/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the annexes thereto,[5] by which the Conference, inter alia, adopted a set of scientific criteria for identifying

[5] See UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I.

[6] UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-TTSTC/1/5, annex III.

[7] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11 B, annex.

ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, contained in annex I to the decision, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, contained in annex II;

10. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

11. *Invites* the remaining countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

12. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[2] to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Protocol to support its implementation, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

13. *Calls upon* all Member States to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development by promoting action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

14. *Decides*, in follow-up to its resolution 63/219, to convene a one-day high-level event on 20 September 2010, prior to the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, and in that regard:

(a) Encourages all Member States to be represented at the highest possible political level by Heads of State or Government and participate actively in the event;

(b) Invites heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status in the General Assembly to participate in the event, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the General Assembly;

(c) Decides that the event will be structured around an opening plenary meeting followed by two parallel thematic panels in the morning and two parallel thematic panels in the afternoon on the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with particular emphasis on the post-2010 biodiversity strategy, the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and poverty eradication and the international regime for access and benefit-sharing, and a closing plenary meeting;

(d) Also decides that the event will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President to prepare, in close consultation with the co-chairs of the round tables, a summary of the discussions held during the high-level event, for presentation at the closing plenary and for transmission, under his authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, as a contribution to raising awareness on the three objectives of the Convention;

(e) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a background paper

for the discussion panels, taking into account inputs of States parties to the Convention;

15. *Calls upon* all relevant organs of the United Nations system, including functional commissions, regional commissions, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to consider the possibility of a special event or special focus in their annual governing body meetings or high-level ministerial segments and in their flagship publications scheduled for 2010 on the linkages between biodiversity, poverty alleviation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Also calls upon* all relevant organs of the United Nations system, including functional commissions, regional commissions, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to fully support, collaborate in and participate in, as appropriate, the activities envisaged in the strategy and implementation plan for the commemoration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity;

17. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional and international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions, and to link relevant activities to the International Year of Biodiversity;

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Nagoya from 13 to 16 October 2010, and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya from 18 to 29 October 2010;

19. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session information on the commemoration of the International Year of Biodiversity, particularly the participation and contribution of all relevant United Nations organs, including functional commissions, regional commissions, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".